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E I G H T Y - E I G H T H   L E G I S L A T U R E

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Legislative Document

No. 109

H. P. 365

House of Representatives, January 27, 1937.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary. Sent up for concurrence and 500 copies ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Philbrick of Cape Elizabeth.

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S T A T E   O F   M A I N E

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I N   T H E   Y E A R   O F   O U R   L O R D   N I N E T E E N   H U N D R E D  
T H I R T Y - S E V E N

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RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Provide for  
Longer Residence to Qualify as a Voter.

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Constitutional amendment. Resolved: Two-thirds of the legislature concurring, that the following amendment to the constitution of this state be proposed:

Article II, § 1, constitution, amended. Section 1 of Article II of the constitution, as amended by Article XLIV, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 1. Continuing right of suffrage on removal from town. Every male citizen of the United States of the age of 21 years and upwards, excepting paupers, persons under guardianship, and Indians not taxed, having his or her residence established in this state for the term of ~~three~~ six months next preceding any election, shall be an elector for governor, senators and representatives, in the city, town or plantation where his or her residence is ~~so~~ has been established for the term of three months next preceding such election, and he or she shall continue to be an elector in such city, town or plantation for the period of three months after his or her removal therefrom, if he or she continues to reside in this state during ~~said~~ such period;

and the elections shall be by written ballot. But persons in the military, naval or marine service of the United States, or this state, shall not be considered as having obtained such established residence by being stationed in any garrison, barrack, or military place, in any city, town or plantation; nor shall the residence of a student at any seminary of learning entitle him to the right of suffrage in the city, town or plantation where such seminary is established. No person, however, shall be deemed to have lost his residence by reason of his absence from the state in the military service of the United States or of this state.

**Form of question and date when amendment shall be voted upon. Resolved:** That the aldermen of cities, the selectmen of towns and the assessors of the several plantations of this state, are hereby empowered and directed to notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet in the manner prescribed by law for calling and holding biennial meetings of said inhabitants for the election of senators and representatives at the next general or special state-wide election, to give in their votes upon the amendment proposed in the foregoing resolution, and the question shall be: "Shall the constitution be amended as proposed by a resolution of the legislature to provide for longer residence to qualify as a voter?" And the inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations shall vote by ballot on said question, those in favor of the amendment voting "Yes" upon their ballots and those opposed to the amendment voting "No" upon their ballots, and the ballots shall be received, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the office of the secretary of state in the same manner as votes for governor and members of the legislature, and the governor and council shall count the same, and if it shall appear that a majority of the inhabitants voting on the question are in favor of the amendment, the governor shall forthwith make known the fact by his proclamation, and the amendment shall thereupon as of the date of said proclamation become a part of the constitution.

**Secretary of state shall prepare ballots. Resolved:** That the secretary of state shall prepare and furnish to the several cities, towns and plantations, ballots and blank returns in conformity with the foregoing resolve accompanied by a copy thereof.